

CAUTION!

Summer 2005

Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Magazine



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Lifesavers 2005 • CIOT Mobilization • Dan Ryan Clean Air Initiative

It's summertime. More people are taking vacations, long weekends, traveling to theme parks, carnivals and other fun events than any other time of year. While you are enjoying your family and friends during this vacation season, remember to always first consider safety. During the celebration, make sure you don't drink and drive, wear your safety belts, and remember that the only thing you should be doing while driving is driving in order to get to your destinations safely.

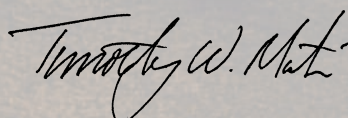
IDOT wants you to be a partner as we strive to achieve a tough but attainable goal that Governor Blagojevich has charged the agency with accomplishing. The governor's mandate to IDOT is to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities to 1000 or less over the next three years. How can you become a partner? By making the commitment to drive safely, always buckle your safety belts, and properly restrain your children every time you get into a car.

We are already making strides toward this accomplishment. In 2004, 1,356 individuals unfortunately lost their lives on Illinois roads. That is a tragedy. However through enhanced public awareness, outreach, and law enforcement efforts, that is the lowest number of fatal crash victims since 1943. While we are saddened for the families and friends who lost loved ones, we are encouraged that fewer people are losing their lives in these crashes.

Earlier this year, IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) had the pleasure of hosting more than 300 traffic safety professionals, advocates, and law enforcement officers at the 2005 Illinois Lifesavers Conference in Springfield. This was a wonderful event that allowed individuals with the common goal of saving lives an opportunity to network and learn from each other. It also was a chance to award Top Cops for their incredibly high DUI arrests, traffic safety organizations for their commitment, and our very own Dr. Mehdi Nassirpour, DTS research and evaluation chief, who won the Director's Award for Traffic Safety.

Many who attended Lifesavers left the conference feeling rejuvenated and spoke of an ability to move forward with greater commitment than when they came. Commitment on behalf of stepped up law enforcement was demonstrated shortly thereafter. This year, more than 3,000 safety belt enforcement zones were conducted throughout Illinois during the Memorial Day "Click it or Ticket" mobilization with a focus on rural roads, which account for 40 percent of Illinois' traffic fatalities. In addition, during the Fourth of July holiday 800 enforcement zones focused on impaired driving by promoting the You Drink You Drive. You Lose.

As IDOT moves forward with a very exciting safety agenda which includes the work being done on the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (focuses on the four Es Enforcement, Education, Engineering, and Emergency Medical Services) and the Alcohol Abuse Task Force which focuses its efforts on all facets of alcohol abuse including driving impaired, we need your help to be successful in our efforts to save lives. Make the commitment...Be a Lifesaver!



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Secretary

CAUTION!

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)

8:00AM to 10:00PM ET Monday-Friday

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For many years my morning routine included walking out to get the newspaper so that I could check the box scores in the sports section. That routine has quickly changed. About six months ago, I was named the director of the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS). Now, the box scores have to wait a few minutes as I check to see if there were any major crashes and/or traffic fatalities that occurred the previous evening. The days that I can quickly move on to the sports section are much more enjoyable than the ones spent reading about a fatality.

Do you realize that on average 3 – 4 people a day die on state roadways? Last year 1,356 people died on Illinois roads, while that is 98 less than in 2003. Governor Blagojevich is charging the department with saving even more lives. The governor set a goal to reduce traffic fatalities by 100 each year, bringing the number to 1,000 in 2008. That objective is reasonable and by signing the primary safety belt legislation in 2003, he has given us the basic tool needed to lower motor vehicle injuries and fatalities in Illinois.

In May, we kicked off our Click It or Ticket campaign with a statewide major media blitz pushing our message. The media blitz was followed up with more than 3,000 safety belt enforcement zones being conducted statewide with the purpose to increase our safety belt usage dramatically from last year's 83 percent and in the end save lives.

Warmer temperatures will cause Illinois roads to swell with traffic as we take long overdue vacations. Whether it's taking a trip to beautiful southern Illinois to enjoy the scenery, Springfield to visit the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library or Chicago to shop Michigan Avenue, wearing safety belts will better your chances of a safe trip.

Have a safe and fun summer Illinois!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Stout". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael R. Stout
Director

State Kicks Off Largest Safety Belt Enforcement Effort

“Click it or Ticket!” Governor Blagojevich put motorists on notice that safety belt usage in Illinois is a priority and if people choose to disobey the law, police will be out in full-force handing out tickets. State and local law enforcement agencies partnered with IDOT over the Memorial Day weekend to set up the largest safety belt enforcement effort ever conducted in Illinois. This year, motorists were made aware of more than 3,000 safety belt enforcement zones throughout Illinois during the Memorial Day “Click it or Ticket” mobilization which takes place one week before, during, and after the holiday.

road to enjoy a long weekend. The single most important way to protect yourself and your family in the car is buckling up,” said Governor Blagojevich. “In 2003, we changed the law in Illinois, giving police the authority to stop motorists for not wearing their safety belt. As a result, we’re seeing more people than ever wearing their safety belt. But, we must remain vigilant. That’s why we launched this intense effort to make sure people stay safe while traveling during the holiday weekend.”

The safety belt enforcement zones that were part of the Memorial Day mobilization represent an increase of 50 percent over the previous largest enforcement in 2000. This year, Illinois placed special emphasis on rural communities during the mobilization because they make up a disproportionate number of traffic fatalities, compared to more populated areas. Nationally in 2003, 65 percent of fatal crashes occurred on rural roads; and in Illinois, crashes on rural roads made up 40 percent of all fatalities.

“The most simple thing you can do to save your life in a car crash is to buckle up, and while Illinois is making some major strides in increasing compliance, there are still a lot of people out there that just don’t get it,” IDOT Secretary Timothy W. Martin said. “In an effort to meet Governor Blagojevich’s goal of 1000 or fewer traffic fatalities by the end of 2008, we have to get more people buckling up. I think we sent a strong message out to the public with more than 3,000 seat belt enforcement zones during this May mobilization period.” ⚠️



photos from O’Fallon press conference

At an event in Chicago, Transportation Secretary Tim Martin and State Police Director Larry Trent explained that the Memorial Day mobilization specifically focuses on the state’s rural roads, which account for 40 percent of Illinois’ traffic fatalities. IDOT and ISP held similar events in O’Fallon, Springfield, Peoria and Rockford. During the press conferences, Saved By the Safety Belt awards were given to several individuals who survived crashes because they chose to wear their safety belts.

“This Memorial Day, more than 30-million people across the country packed up their cars and hit the



Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Each year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) declares the month of May as "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month." The focus is on traffic safety issues concerning motorcyclists. NHTSA's purpose is to provide motorists an opportunity to become familiar with the motorcyclist's view of the highway. In Illinois, motorcyclists conducted a free windshield-washing program at select interstate rest areas statewide in observance of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

Whether you're riding on two, four or eighteen wheels, you can help drive down motorcycle crash rates by being alert to your surroundings. Motorists – particularly those who have never driven motorcycles – are sometimes not looking for motorcyclists in traffic. As a result, cars and motorcycles often have collisions on the road. In fact, the majority of motorcycle crashes involving two vehicles are the fault of the other driver. Drivers involved in crashes with motorcyclists often say they never saw the bike.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) encourages all drivers to watch for motorcycles on the road and respect their right to be there. MSF also urges motorcyclists to "Support Our Sport" by following all traffic laws and respecting the rights of other roadway users. The group offers these safety tips to motorcyclists:

- **BE A RESPONSIBLE RIDER** – Wear appropriate protective gear – a DOT helmet, eye protection, jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants and over the ankle boots. Also, know your skill level and ride within it. Use the SEE strategy – Search, Evaluate, Execute. SEE helps riders understand traffic situations and implement a course of action to avoid trouble.
- **PRACTICE STREET STRATEGIES** – A motorcycle's lane position can communicate a rider's presence and intention. Lane position can help avoid wind-blast from other vehicles and can help maintain a space cushion between the bike and other traffic. A rider can increase his or her visibility by wearing brightly colored or reflective gear and by signaling all intentions to other drivers.
- **DON'T RIDE IMPAIRED** – Alcohol or other drugs (prescription, over the counter or otherwise) diminish visual capabilities and alter good judgment. When someone is impaired, it is the responsibility of others to keep that person from getting behind the wheel – or the handlebars.

For more information regarding motorcycle safety issues, contact the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at (949) 727-3227 or the Division of Traffic Safety (217) 785-4230. DTS also provides motorcycle safety courses to individuals who are interested in learning more about safe riding. ⚠️

New Coordinator Takes Occupancy Protection to the Next Level

by Jahari E. Piersol



Isaac Newton once said, "he has seen further by standing on the shoulders of giants." Illinois is by no means short of traffic safety "giants." The able guidance of my traffic safety mentors has led me into my current position as the state Occupant

Protection Coordinator. I sincerely THANK YOU for paving the way, passing the laws, doing the research, breaking the barriers, hoisting me up and allowing me to take Occupant Protection in Illinois to the next level. I look forward to working further with you and forging new bonds throughout the state with traffic safety advocates and partners.

In the next year, Child Passenger Safety (CPS) will be revamped in Illinois by dividing the three existing regions into seven regions with seven Regional Occupant Protection Coordinators. There will be three regions in the north, two in central Illinois and two in southern Illinois to better serve the public's needs. Regional Occupant Protection Coordinators

will focus more intently on child passenger safety from birth to age 18. In the next year, we will also hold quarterly CPS Summits to address and resolve ongoing concerns of the CPS community. The summits will serve as a forum to bring in national experts and chip away at the CPS wish list.

The Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) has set a new goal of 90% safety belt compliance in Illinois. With your help, we can reach that next milestone and continue to save lives on Illinois' roadways. Click-It or Ticket is moving full speed ahead. New this year, NHTSA has implemented a Rural Safety Belt Initiative. Research supports that rural areas have twice the fatality rate of motor vehicle occupants than urban environments; however, traffic safety funding and enforcement in rural areas fall short.

It is exciting to address these necessary issues as we work to have a reduction in fatalities by striving for 90% statewide safety belt compliance. Other interesting developments in Occupant Protection – Mike Stout, will become the first Director in the history of DTS to be trained as a CPS Technician along with several top staff members. I warmly welcome them to the CPS Community and look forward to working with all of you as we reach 90% safety belt compliance. ⚠️



State Agencies Join in Partnership to Keep Kids Safe

by Matt Vanover

For the second year in a row, IDOT, the Department of Human Services and Illinois State Police are teaming up with 21st Century Insurance in a public safety partnership to reduce auto fatalities and injuries to children by conducting safety checks and giving out free safety seats at a series of events around the state.

"In order to keep your family safe while driving, you have to buckle up your kids and their safety seat must be properly installed," Governor Blagojevich said in announcing the initiative. "It's a sad statistic, but a majority of car seats are improperly installed. This partnership between our state agencies and 21st Century will help parents make sure their kids are buckled in right."

Certified child safety seat technicians and State Troopers will be staffing each of the events. Motorists have the opportunity to have their safety seats checked for compliance with the state law that was strengthened by Governor Blagojevich starting in 2004. If necessary, old, broken and recalled car seats will be replaced free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis, thanks to the sponsorship of 21st Century Insurance.

"All of us at 21st are proud to be teaming up with Governor Blagojevich and the state of Illinois on this critically important consumer safety and education campaign," said Joyce Prager, 21st Century

Safety inspections will take place across the state As part of effort to promote strengthened child seat law

Insurance assistant vice president for community relations. "We understand the tragedy of auto crashes. We want to help parents make sure their children are safe."

At a series of nine events in 2004, safety technicians conducted 434 inspections: 166 seats were discarded because they were recalled, broken or damaged





and 309 seats were donated by 21st Century. In addition, the company donated 500 car seats to the Governor's Keep our Kids Warm and Safe initiative. These are being distributed to low-income families throughout Illinois through referrals made by DHS.

The child safety seat campaign is part of Governor Blagojevich's overall traffic safety goal of reducing traffic deaths to 1,000 or less by end of 2008. According to provisional data, the number of children aged 0-9 years who died in traffic crashes dropped by 12.5% in 2004 from 2003. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) credits Governor Blagojevich's strengthening of occupant restraint laws as a key reason for the decline.

In 2003, Governor Blagojevich signed legislation that requires all children younger than age eight to be properly secured in a child restraint seat. Infants have to be in a safety seat facing toward the rear, toddlers should be securely strapped into a seat facing forward, and older children should be in booster seats that allow them to use a shoulder harness safely.

IDOT's involvement in the program is coordinated by Carla Kelly, an outreach coordinator in the Office of External Affairs in District 2 and Jahari Piersol statewide occupancy protection coordinator.

Kelly said that the vast majority of parents and caretakers who participate are shocked to find that they are not properly using child safety seats. "They are always very thankful when they stop and get instruction on how to properly install the seats and how to properly strap a child in," Kelly said.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children. Research shows that 96% of parents believe their children are properly buckled in their safety seats, yet data from actual inspections show that 73% of the children riding in child safety seats are improperly restrained. What's more, 71% of traffic fatalities and 66% of injuries could be prevented if every car seats was used appropriately and properly. ⚠️



Alcohol Abuse Task Force

by Matt Vanover

Members of the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force are working together to address the problems associated with alcohol abuse that impact lives across Illinois, from our very youngest citizens to among our oldest. The task force met for the first time in Springfield May 12, 2005 and will work over the year and a half to identify how state government can better coordinate its alcohol abuse prevention efforts and what new initiatives should be implemented.

Governor Blagojevich created the task force to save and improve the lives of the people of Illinois. It is an unprecedented partnership of state agencies and advocacy groups, chaired by the Tim Martin, Secretary of Transportation, Larry Trent, Director of the Illinois State Police and Carol Adams, Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

The Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force will impact the lives of Illinois citizens by working to reduce impaired driving, domestic violence, alcohol-related injuries and other problems associated with alcohol abuse in general. By creating the task force, alcohol abuse is being recognized as a statewide problem, not a single issue dealt with by a lone

agency. The task force will work together to coordinate state government efforts, maximizing efficiency by bringing state agencies together to focus on a common goal. It will identify impacts and increase public awareness of the associated problems and engage the public in working with us to confront alcohol abuse.

In August 2006 the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force will present a final report on its findings and actions. This final report will include:

- Information about coordinated state efforts and programs
- An outline of a system for ongoing collaboration
- Recommended messages, information and materials
- Reference to the implementation of priority recommendations of the Illinois Impaired Driving Re-Assessment and the Illinois Prevention 2000 Plan

The Task Force has begun its work. The members face a daunting challenge, but it is a challenge they are committed to and enthusiastic about meeting. ▲



Americans Are at Risk on Our Rural Roadways

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), rural Americans face greater risk of being injured or killed while driving or riding on rural roadways than do those who live and commute in urban areas.

Only 21 percent of Americans live in rural areas of this country, but rural traffic crashes accounted for 60 percent of the nation's total. Just as alarming, the motor vehicle fatality rate in rural areas is more than double the fatality rate in urban areas.

Some of this is due, of course, to the delay of discovery and emergency response along isolated highways. But much of it is also due to excessive speed, alcohol-use, vehicle rollovers and higher occupant ejection rates due to low safety belt use.

According to NHTSA, 73 percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were in a fatal crash in 2003 and who were restrained by a safety belt – survived. Of those not restrained, only 26 percent survived. Too many of those not restrained and killed were on our rural roadways.

That is why IDOT joined with NHTSA, state and local highway safety leaders in a six-state region surrounding the Great Lakes (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) to launch a Click It or Ticket safety belt mobilization focused on rural areas of their states during the month of May.

The goal is to save lives by reminding drivers and passengers on rural roads to always buckle up. This is vitally important because safety belts have proven to reduce the risk of death in a passenger car crash by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and mini-vans.

One of the most important groups to reach are 15-20 years olds, because they are among those most at risk for severe injury or death due to low safety belt usage, particularly young males. In fact, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for 15-20 year olds, and more than twice as many vehicle occupants in this age group die in rural area crashes than in urban crashes.

Another important group is pickup truck drivers and their passengers, who again are most at risk due to their low safety belt usage. Drivers and passengers in pickup trucks consistently have lower safety belt usage rates than the occupants of automobiles, vans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs). According to NHTSA's 2004 National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), the observed safety belt use rate was only 70 percent in pickup trucks compared to 81 percent in passenger cars and 83 percent in SUVs and vans. In 2003, 70 percent of the pickup truck drivers killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up.

For more information on how to avoid rollover crashes in rural areas, please visit www.safercar.gov. Click on Rollover and then the link to Minimize Risk and Injury. ⚠

2005 Lifesavers Conference Focuses on Making Illinois Highways Safer

AIMED AT MEETING GOVERNOR'S GOAL OF 1,000 DEATHS OR FEWER BY 2008

Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) Director Mike Stout kicked off the 2005 Lifesavers Conference by calling on attendees to focus their efforts on meeting Governor Rod Blagojevich's goal of reducing the number of traffic deaths in Illinois to 1,000 or less by the end of 2008. More than 300 people attended the annual Lifesavers conference. This is Illinois' premier traffic safety event that brings together traffic safety advocates from throughout Illinois to discuss common sense solutions to today's critical highway safety problems.

"Under Governor Blagojevich we have been able to reduce the number of traffic fatalities to our lowest level in more than a half-century and by working together we will meet his goal," said Stout.

"Governor Blagojevich has given us a tough challenge, but it is an attainable one. Working together to increase the use of restraint systems and to decrease drinking and driving, coupled with other programs, we can reduce the amount of deaths on our highways to 1,000 or less."

Director Stout made his comments at a child safety seat check event held in conjunction with the conference. Approximately 40 certified child safety seat technicians checked more than 100 safety seats and educated parents on proper installation and use. It is estimated that in Illinois, 9 out of 10 child safety seats are installed improperly.

The 3-day Lifesavers Conference addressed a wide range of traffic safety issues, including adult and child occupant protection, impaired driving, criminal enforcement, work zone safety, distracted driving, motorcycle safety and commercial motor vehicle safety. A diverse group of safety advocates representing law enforcement, emergency medicine, health education, higher education, the insurance industry and community volunteers participated in Lifesavers.

"The Lifesavers conference is an invaluable learning tool for people like myself that are committed to reducing the number of people killed on Illinois' streets and highways," said Patrick Quillinan, of the

Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders (ITSL). "It helps us to keep up-to-date on trends, get information we couldn't get elsewhere and meet people who are facing the same problems that we face on a daily basis and see how they've met these challenges."

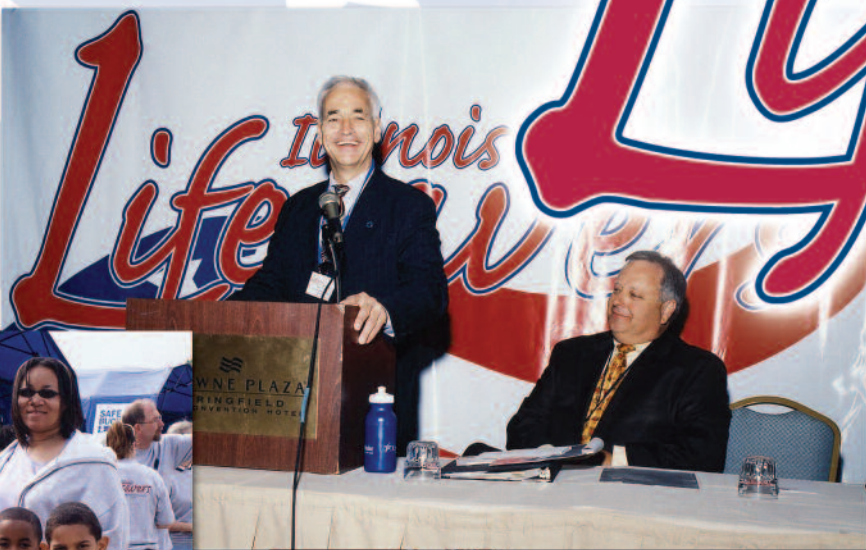
"Under Governor Blagojevich we have been able to reduce the number of traffic fatalities to our lowest level in more than a half-century"

DTS and ITSL were co-sponsors of the 2005 Lifesavers Conference. Chuck Hurley, national executive director of Mother's Against Drunk Driving was the keynote speaker. Other guest speakers included State Senator John Cullerton; Don McNamara, Regional Administrator, NHTSA Great Lakes Region; Joel Hand, Indiana Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor; and Michael Prince, Director, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. ▲





Illinois Lifesaver Conference



Illinois Lifesavers Conference



Traffic Safety Awards Law Enforcement Advocates and Survivors at Lifesavers

Law enforcement and traffic safety advocates were recognized at an Awards Breakfast at the culmination of the Lifesavers Conference. Secretary Martin and Director Stout participated in the presentation, along with Master of Ceremonies Dwight Lockwood, Law Enforcement Liaison, law enforcement officers and other advocates.

- Saved By the Belt Awards recognizes individuals who survived motor vehicle crashes because they used their safety belts.
- Thelma Kuska Award recognizes child passenger safety advocates.
- The Red, White, and Blue Team Award is presented to agencies in Illinois who have established a team within their community. The colors/teams represent Fire (red), Medical/safety professionals (white), and Law Enforcement (Blue). The goal is to encourage all three types of agencies to work together to address child passenger safety issues. THE RWB concept was developed by Assistant Chief Steven Casstevens of Hoffman Estates Police Department.
- Top Cop Awards recognize officers with more than 100 DUI arrests.

- The Director's Choice Award given by the Director of Traffic Safety to a staff member with outstanding contributions.
- Traffic Safety Partnership Award given to advocates who have shown commitment and dedication to traffic safety efforts.
- Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders Award went to an advocate of traffic safety.



Looking Beyond the Safety Belt

by Steven R. Casstevens, Assistant Chief of Police Chair - IACP Traffic Committee

Recently an officer made a traffic stop for a motorist not wearing a safety belt. The stop resulted in the arrest of the driver for driving on a revoked license – a felony, based on the driving history. The driver was also wanted on a warrant for a prior DUI and two other warrants for prior revoked license arrests. This arrest also resulted in the seizure of the vehicle for possible forfeiture proceedings.

In another recent case an officer stopped a motorist for not wearing a safety belt. The driver had no driver's license, no insurance, and was wanted on five outstanding warrants for obstructing, felony retail theft and DUI.

Cases such as these occur every day in Illinois by good officers who are doing their jobs while enforcing the mandatory safety belt law. For years we have read study after study and have preached that "routine" traffic stops often lead to other things. We have shown that officers who make stops for safety belt violations often recover weapons, drugs, evidence of other crimes and continually arrest drivers and passengers on a variety of charges.

To further illustrate this message and to recognize those officers who "go the extra mile" the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is unveiling the

Looking Beyond The Safety Belt program. This program is designed to recognize individual officers whose observations and investigative skills during a traffic stop based on a safety belt violation has resulted in the discovery of a crime, recovery of evidence, or arrest of criminals. All too often we fail to recognize the hard work of our officers, deputies and troopers who are out there every day making our streets and highways safer for everyone. These officers are not treating a safety belt violation as routine. They are using their observations skills, asking questions, realizing that this stop may be more than just a safety belt violation. These are the law enforcement officers that we wish to commend and recognize.

The program is coordinated by the IACP Traffic Committee, and the guidelines and application for this program can be obtained by sending an e-mail to the Committee Chair at steven.Casstevens@hoffmanstates.org. Applications for the 2004 program were due in Springfield by June 30th. The top three entries will be recognized at the Traffic Safety Challenge awards breakfast at the IACP summer conference in August. Applications for 2005 traffic stops must be submitted by April 15, 2006, which is the same as the due date for the Traffic Safety Challenge. ⚠



**CLICK IT
OR TICKET**

Looking Beyond the Safety Belt

AN ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) announces the “Looking Beyond The Safety Belt” awards program. This program was established to recognize law enforcement officers whose observations during a traffic stop based on a safety belt violation, resulted in the discovery of evidence of a crime and/or apprehension of criminals. Case histories submitted by law enforcement agencies help substantiate the importance of traffic stops as a tool in uncovering other crimes.

All too often we think of traffic stops as being “routine” while clearly they are not. Each and every day, law enforcement officers apprehend fugitives and recover evidence of other crimes based on traffic stops for “routine” violations. The IACP supports the enforcement of the state’s primary safety belt law and encourages officers to take enforcement action in their jurisdictions.

ENTRY RULES

1. All entries submitted for the Looking Beyond The Safety Belt award program must be based on traffic stops made by law enforcement officers where the probable cause for the stop was based on a violation of the Illinois safety belt law or local ordinance.
2. Each entry must include a cover letter on original department letterhead from the agency head or his/her designee.
3. Each entry must be based on a traffic stop made during the previous calendar year.
4. All entries and supporting data become the property of the IACP and will not be returned.
5. A panel of judges selected by the IACP Traffic Committee will review all entries and will determine the top three winners each year. The decisions of the judging team are final.
6. Winners will be notified by mail and will be recognized at the Traffic Safety Challenge Awards ceremony at the IACP summer conference in August.
7. The IACP reserves the right to publish the names and photographs of the winners and their agencies as part of the statewide campaign.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE IACP TRAFFIC COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVEN CASSTEVENS, HOFFMAN ESTATES POLICE – 847-781-2804

LIEUTENANT PAUL RIZZO, SCHAUMBURG POLICE – 847-348-7277

IDOT Takes Life-Saving Message to Chicago Auto Show

by Jim Boratyn

The Chicago Auto Show rolled into town and IDOT crews were on the scene. For the first time in the history of the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT took the opportunity to showcase a variety of safety programs at the 2005 Chicago Auto Show.

One of the most poignant messages came from 17-year-old Jessica Bacon whose crashed car was on display. While her car was totaled by the damages from the collision, Jessica walked away with only minor injuries because she used a safety belt.

The "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" campaign allowed participants an opportunity to experience how judgment is altered by wearing a pair of goggles that simulate intoxication. Giant blood alcohol content calculators provided sobering insight into just how little alcohol is needed to become legally intoxicated.

The department also used this event to unveil the Remote Flagger. This device allows road workers to instruct vehicles from a safe distance via a remote device. Utilizing federal funding, IDOT purchased 20 Remote Flagger Stations. It is hoped that this pilot project will compliment current Work Zone Safety efforts and keep workers further out of harms way.

During the event, Secretary Martin, along with the Illinois State Police discussed the importance of Child Passenger safety during a joint news conference. They emphasized the importance of child passenger seats in automobiles.

It is anticipated over one million people passed by the IDOT exhibit throughout the duration of the show. ⚠️



Expressway Names Mascot to Assist in Groundbreaking Clean Air Initiative

by Jim Boratyn



IDOT recently unveiled a major pollution reduction effort on the Dan Ryan Expressway which runs directly through the middle of the south side of Chicago. This unprecedented groundbreaking initiative is a result of recommendations from Health and Environmental Focus Groups, partnerships with the U.S. and Illinois Environmental Protection Agencies (IEPA), Chicago Public Schools, American Lung Association and other local agencies.

IDOT Secretary Tim Martin accompanied by the project mascot “Dan the Air Bear” announced a sweeping new Clean Air Construction Initiative. As part of the campaign, Dan the Air Bear will be placed along the Dan Ryan construction route to report daily air quality as good (Green Day), moderate (Yellow Day), unhealthy for sensitive groups (Orange Day) or unhealthy (Red Day).

In addition, approximately 290 pieces of heavy construction equipment on the Dan Ryan project will be retrofitted with devices designed to reduce harmful emissions or will use ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) which is significantly cleaner than regular diesel. IDOT has also instituted idling limits and dust controls in order to reduce construction related air emissions.

These emission control strategies, which are unprecedented in the United States, are a contract requirement for equipment operating on the Dan

Ryan project. This initiative is funded in part through a \$60,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that was secured by the Illinois EPA.

The health and environmental focus group, comprised of experts from local hospitals, health organizations and colleges and universities, has provided IDOT with recommendations that will ensure health and environmental concerns are met during the Dan Ryan construction. IDOT plans to use the report as a guide for all future construction and is already serving as a model for other transportation agencies throughout the country.

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority has also adopted IDOT’s Clean Air Construction Initiative and is mandating the use of either ULSD fuel or retrofit heavy construction equipment on the reconstruction and widening projects along the south Tri-State (I-80/294) and the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), as well as on the construction of the I-355 South Extension.

The four-year \$430 million Dan Ryan Expressway (I-94/90)

Reconstruction project spans from 31st street to I-57/Halsted street. As part of the reconstruction, IDOT will add expressway lanes, improve local access roads and reconfigure the Skyway interchange to allow for safer driving conditions. More information can be found at

WWW.DANRYANEXPRESSWAY.COM. ⚠



ENGINEERING SAFETY BY DESIGN

One of IDOT's most critical goals is to save lives. As the Governor's Highway Safety Representative, IDOT Secretary Timothy W. Martin is committed to implementing initiatives that will ensure safer road conditions. One such initiative is the development of a Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) for the State of Illinois, an approach the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) encourages all states to pursue. Following coordinated efforts of the Bureau of Safety Engineering and the Division of Traffic Safety, the first Illinois CHSP has been produced.

The Illinois CHSP is a compilation of performance-driven strategies having potential to improve highway safety. These strategies fall into a wide range of categories, from innovative to basic, new to old, or experimental to proven. Furthermore, the CHSP includes, builds upon, and integrates existing programs, such as the Highway Safety Plan, Hazard Elimination Safety Program, and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. Regardless of origination, all strategies combined focus limited highway safety resources toward a common mission, vision, and goal.

MISSION: Develop, implement, and manage an integrated multi-stakeholder process to improve the attributes of roads, users, and vehicles to reduce traffic-related deaths and life-altering injuries in Illinois.

VISION: Highway users arrive safely at their destinations.

GOAL: Reduce the number of traffic-related deaths from 1,454 in 2003 to 1,000 or fewer by 2008, a rate of 1.0 fatality per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

A key component to the CHSP is its comprehensiveness. The "4 Es" of highway safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Medical Services are addressed within the plan. A wide

range of stakeholders from each area participated in two Illinois Highway Safety Summits where ideas, suggestions, expertise, and creativity resulted in the draft version of the CHSP.

Based on input from stakeholders, ten data-driven emphasis areas were chosen to focus immediate efforts and be the guiding force of the first Illinois CHSP. Each area is considered critical, as defined by data, or is determined to be a high-profile issue that, if addressed, would assist in achieving the goal of improved overall highway safety. The ten emphasis areas are:

- Alcohol and Other Impaired Driving
- Driver Behavior and Awareness
- Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings
- Information Systems for Decision Making
- Intersections
- Large Trucks
- Roadway Departure
- Safety Belts/Occupant Protection
- Vulnerable Users
- Work Zones.

Specifically, "Driver Behavior and Awareness" includes topics of aggressive driving, cell phone usage, distracted driving, excessive speeding, fatigued driving, and unlicensed driving. "Vulnerable Users" primarily addresses pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and motorcyclists.

Within the CHSP, background information is provided, along with pertinent statistics and data figures, for each emphasis area. Recent Implemented Strategies are listed to illustrate what is currently being executed in Illinois. Challenges, defined as identified hurdles involving the "4 Es" that must be overcome to improve highway safety are also introduced. Concluding each emphasis area is a listing of Proposed Strategies or proposed actions encompassing the "4 Es" that address identified challenges. ▲

TRAFFIC CRASHES

Many crashes can be avoided if drivers obey traffic laws. Drive defensively and drive in peak mental and physical condition. Never drive impaired and always wear a safety belt.

A CRASH CHECKLIST

In the event of a crash:

- Stop your vehicle in a safe, well-lighted, public place.
- Help an injured person if necessary or requested. First, protect the person from traffic. Then, cover the injured person for comfort and to avoid shock. Do not move an injured person unless absolutely necessary. Do not attempt to give first aid unless you have been trained in it. Contact 911 immediately.
- Someone should warn other drivers, using flares if available.
- Ask all those involved for their names, addresses, phone numbers, driver's license numbers and license plate numbers.
- Notify the nearest police station as quickly as possible.

CRASH REPORTS

Regardless of fault, a crash report must be filed by the driver of a vehicle if the crash involves death, bodily injury or property damage over \$500. To report a crash:

- Notify the police. Many towns and cities require a report if a crash occurs within their limits. Therefore, if an officer is not at the scene of the crash, a report must be made at the nearest police station as soon as possible.

If in a rural area, the county sheriff or Illinois State Police must be notified. If the driver is unable to make the report and there is a passenger, the passenger must make the report.

- A report also must be made to the Illinois Department of Transportation. This confidential report must be sent no later than 10 days after the crash. The form can be obtained from a police officer or automobile insurance agency.

THE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY LAW

When you are involved in a crash that causes personal injury, the death of a person or more than \$500 in damage to property, you must file a crash report. If you were at fault in the crash, you must also meet the requirements of the Safety Responsibility Law. This law requires you to be able to put up security (a guarantee of payment) if you do not have insurance coverage or another acceptable form of payment.

IDOT determines the amount of the security. If you do not have insurance coverage or the required security, your driver's license may be suspended until the case has been settled. The owner of the vehicle involved in the crash may also have all license plates and registration stickers suspended. The suspended driver's license or registration privileges will remain suspended until the person gives proof of financial responsibility in the future and maintains this insurance for a period of three years from the date the proof is first filed.

Rules of the Road, Illinois Secretary of State.

Highlights

TRAFFIC SAFETY RELATED LEGISLATION 94TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH TOUGHENS DRUNK DRIVING PENALTIES IN ILLINOIS!

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

SB-0072 – Requires police to record interrogations and confessions in cases where a person is charged with DUI that resulted in a death. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0117 - Effective 07/05/05*

SB-1495 – If a person is convicted of aggravated driving while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds, and because this DUI violation caused the death of one or more persons, the defendant shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment, unless the court determines that extraordinary circumstances exist and require probation. *Passed Both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

HB-0657 – Increases the penalties for drivers 21 years of age and older who are driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds while transporting a child under the age of 16 years. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0110 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-0887 – Provides for more consistent sentencing of DUI's by requiring the prosecution of felony DUI charges be handled by local State's Attorneys offices. Previously, municipal attorneys were able to prosecute these crimes. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0111 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-0888 – Toughens penalties for persons caught driving on a license or permit that has been suspended or revoked because of DUI, makes it a Class Four Felony (1-3 years in prison) for the fifth through ninth offenses, a Class Three Felony (2-5 years in prison) for the 10th through 14th offenses and a Class 2 Felony (3-7 years in prison) for a 15th or greater offense. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0112 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-1081 – States that a person who is convicted of aggravated DUI that results in the death of one or more persons, will be sentenced to a term of between 3-14 years in prison, unless a court determines extraordinary circumstances exist. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0113 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-1132 – Provides that any person convicted a sixth or subsequent time of driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds is guilty of a Class X Felony, requiring a sentence of 6 to 30 years in prison. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0114 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-1351 – Provides that any person arrested for leaving the scene of an accident involving death or personal injury is subject to chemical testing for alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds if the testing is done within 12 hours of the time of the occurrence of the accident. Provides that the person's driving privileges are subject to statutory summary suspension if he or she fails or refuses to undergo the testing. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0115 – Effective 01/01/06*

HB-3816 – Stipulates that those convicted of DUI a third or fourth time are guilty of a Class 2 Felony, while a fifth time is a Class 1 Felony. With a fourth or fifth conviction, offenders are no longer eligible to receive a sentence of probation or conditional discharge. *Signed by the Governor PA-94-0116 – Effective 01/01/06*

DISTRACTED DRIVERS

(Cell phone usage & Visual distractions)

SB-0210 – Provides that a person under the age of 18 who holds an instruction permit or a graduated license may not use a wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway. The bill does not apply to a person using the wireless telephone for specific emergency purposes. *Passed both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

HB-0960 – Provides that a person may not operate a motor vehicle if a television receiver, a video monitor, a television or video screen, or other means of visually displaying a television broadcast or video signal for purposes of entertainment or business applications is operating and is located in the motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, or is operating and visible to the driver while driving the motor vehicle. Repeals a similar provision pertaining exclusively to television receivers. *Passed both Houses and sent to Governor for consideration.*

EXCESSIVE SPEED

HB-0767 - Provides that the court may impose a more severe sentence upon a defendant who committed the offense of reckless homicide or the offense of driving under the influence of alcohol, other drug, intoxicating compounds, or any combination thereof while operating a motor vehicle in excess of 20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. *Passed both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

HB-3648 – Provides that a person shall be tested for alcohol, drugs or intoxicating compounds if he or she is involved as a driver in an accident involving death or personal injury. Adds language providing that, in cases involving a person convicted of reckless driving or aggravated reckless driving, the fact that the defendant was driving at a speed in excess of 20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit shall be considered as an aggravating factor and may be considered by the court as reasons to impose a more severe sentence. *Passed both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

OCCUPANT PROTECTION

SB-0229 - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code and the Child Passenger Protection Act. Provides that every person 18 (rather than 17) years of age or younger must wear a seat safety belt while riding as passenger in a vehicle operated by a driver under the age of 18. *Passed both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

SCHOOL BUSES

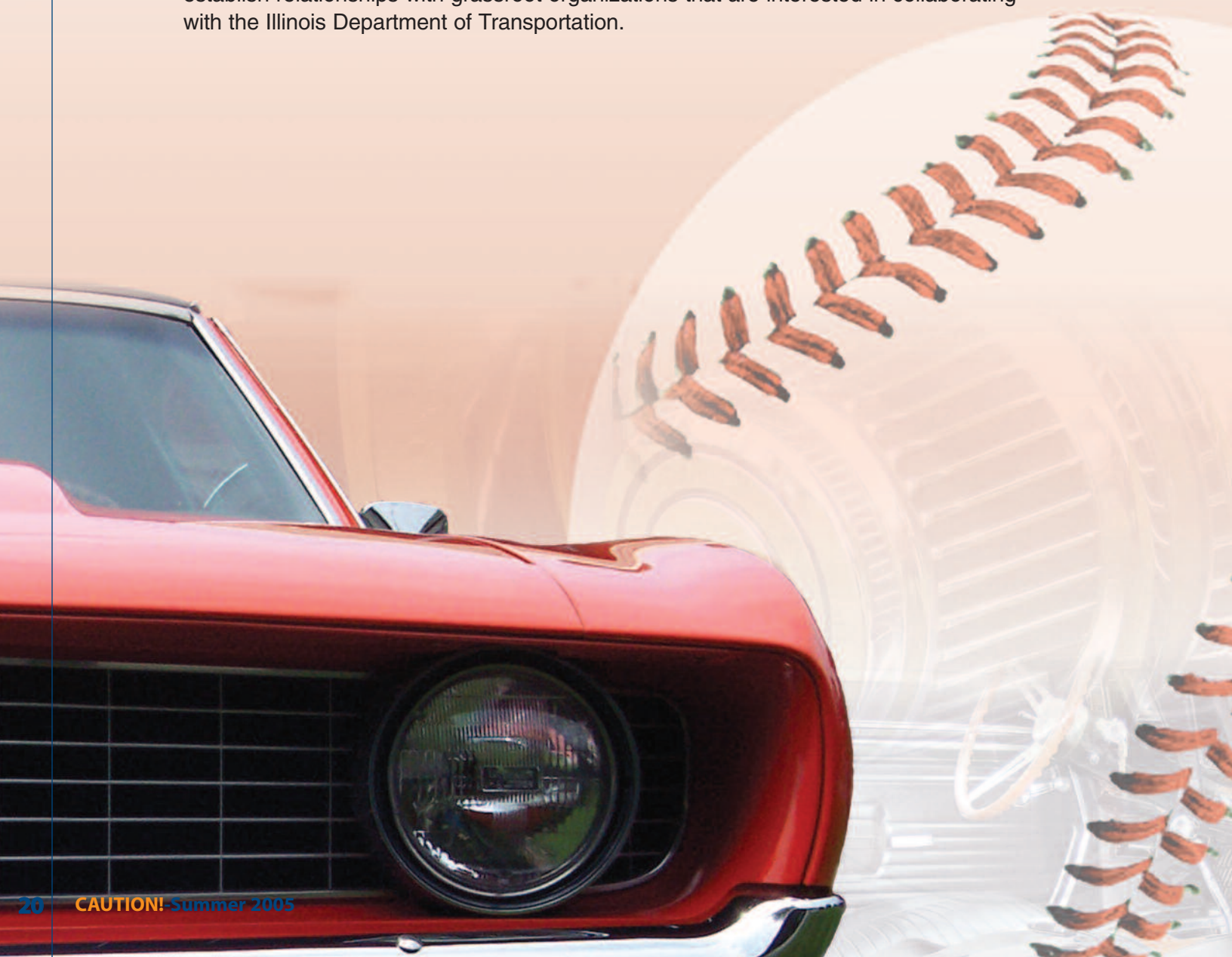
HB-1387 - Provides that the driver of any bus that meets specified requirements for a school bus must, in addition to following all other required procedures, turn off all noise producing accessories before crossing a railroad track or tracks. Provides that any school bus manufactured on or after January 1, 2006, must be equipped with a noise suppression switch capable of turning off noise producing accessories. *Passed both Houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.*

PLEASE NOTE: *The information below was current as of the date of publication for the Summer 2005 Caution Magazine. If you would like to view any of these bills in their entirety or track their status, please visit the Illinois General Assembly website at: <http://www.ilga.gov/>*

Summer Outreach Program Focuses on Safe Driving Campaigns

To educate the public on the importance of safety belt usage and the dangers associated with impaired driving, the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) has started a summer outreach program that focuses on Click It Or Ticket and You Drink and Drive. You Lose. DTS outreach coordinators are setting up displays and giveaways at the Illinois State Fair, DuQuoin State Fair, Route 66 Festival, Hot Rod Power Tour and Hot Rod Nationals, seven minor league and two major league ballparks throughout Illinois this summer. We are also working on creating partnerships with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) and the St. Louis Cardinals to help promote and encourage safety belt usage to motorists traveling from Missouri into Illinois.

The goal is to provide education on traffic safety initiatives and campaigns as well as make DTS staff available to answer questions. DTS will also use these opportunities to establish relationships with grassroot organizations that are interested in collaborating with the Illinois Department of Transportation.



JUNE TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS EVENTS

- 5 **HOT ROD POWER TOUR** – Illinois State Fairground – Springfield
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.
- 25 **GATEWAY GRIZZLES** – minor league baseball team – Belleville
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.
- 27- JULY 7
YOU DRINK & YOU DRIVE. YOU LOSE – statewide mobilization against Driving while intoxicated. Media campaign and law enforcement mobilization will occur statewide
- 28 **WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS** – minor league baseball team – Chicago
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.
- 29 **JOLIET JACKHAMMERS** – minor league baseball team – Joliet
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.

JULY TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS EVENTS

- 12 **SCHAUMBURG FLYERS** – minor league baseball team – Schaumburg
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.
- 19 **LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON RECOGNITION BANQUET** – Chicago
Applauding the efforts of law enforcement in promoting safety initiatives.
- 19 **KANE COUNTY COUGARS** – minor league baseball team – Geneva
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.
- 20 **RIDE YOUR MOTORCYCLE TO WORK DAY** – 14th annual national commuting effort to promote the positive value of motorcycles and scooters for transportation.
- 21 **LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON RECOGNITION BANQUET** – Columbia
Applauding the efforts of law enforcement in promoting safety initiatives.
- 28 **ROCKFORD RIVERHAWKS** – minor league baseball team – Rockford
Distribute educational materials on traffic safety.

AUGUST TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS EVENTS

- 11- 23
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR – Springfield
- 19 - SEPT 5
YOU DRINK & YOU DRIVE. YOU LOSE – National crackdown on driving while impaired. Media campaign and law enforcement mobilization will occur statewide.
- 26- SEPT 3
DUQUOIN STATE FAIR - DuQuoin
- 28- 31
GOVERNORS HIGHWAY SAFETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING - Norfolk, VA.

You Drink & Drive
YOU LOSE

**CLICK IT
OR TICKET**



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

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